

Abstract

A client device, or information appliance such as a personal
5 digital assistant, is capable of receiving multimedia data streams from
a server. However, due to processing and display capabilities, the
client device may not be able to present the complete data stream, or a
user may elect to configure the client device not to process data that
will unduly reduce the client device's performance. Accordingly, the
10 present invention provides a method and apparatus for allowing a
server to determine the native, or user selected, capabilities of a client
device, such that the server can filter and parse the data into
meaningfully presentable data and non-meaningfully presentable data,
and then transmit only the meaningfully presentable data to the client
15 device for processing and display. In an alternative embodiment, the
server sends the complete data stream to the client device, and the
client device filters and parses the data, and then processes only the
meaningfully presentable data for display on the client device.